**1940s Music**

Big band-Swing-Jazz music

Glenn Miller, Cab Calloway, Rosemary Clooney, Benny Goodman, Dizzie Gillespie

**Music in the 1940s** was mainly built around the **jazz and big band** styles that were popular during the day. Artists like **Rosemary Clooney, Count Basie, and Artie Shaw** helped to define the musical era with their unique brand of entertaining crowds through their music. This was also the era of **World War II**, and many musical acts strived to reflect the pain that the country was going through while still remaining upbeat and positive about the impending future. The [1940's](http://www.thepeoplehistory.com/1940s.html) was a time for many breakthrough artists who made their mark in the history of music and several of them are still recognized as innovators in their day.   
One of the innovators of the **1940s musical style** was **Dizzy Gillespie**. Known for his trademark puffy cheeks formed from being a prominent jazz trumpeter, Dizzy Gillespie was one of the prominent band leaders of the day. He also helped to create the bebop style of music, which consisted of a fast-tempo style of jazz combined with scat singing. Scat singing was a phenomenon that came to prominence during this era and it consisted of several nonsense but rhythmical syllables strung together to fit with the music. Dizzy Gillespie also helped to create the Afro-Cuban music trend that enjoyed popularity during the following years. This style combined musical aspects from both Latin and African influences. Dizzy Gillespie was also known for having a bent trumpet because it produced a unique sound that was characteristic of his particular sound.   
**Cab Calloway** was another popular scat **jazz singer** that came to prominence in the 1940s. In fact, he was so prominent in this field of music that he was often referred to as the “Hi De Ho” guy. One legend of how scat began tells of how Calloway forgot the words to a song during a performance and started improvising nonsense syllables to fit with the beat of the music. It was well-received by his audience and a new musical styles was born. His baritone voice was an excellent match for his style of jazz music, but he was also a very successful big band leader. His orchestra included some of the most prominent musicians of the era, including the aforementioned Dizzy Gillespie. Calloway is also synonymous with the **Betty Boop cartoon** because his popular song “Minnie the Moocher” was used as the score for one of the episodes.

Instruments used: clarinet, flute, drums, piano, saxophone, trumpet, guitar, trombone, kazoo